

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Fig. 5A has been amended to place the reference signs 10b and 22 closer to their corresponding reference line.

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 1, 11 and 12 and added new claims 18 and 19 to further clarify the intended subject matter of the invention. As claims 11 and 12 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, by having been rewritten in independent format, the objection to claims 11 and 12 has been overcome. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found, for example, in Fig. 1A and the related portions thereon in the specification. Support for new claim 18 may be found, for example, in Fig. 1A and the related portions thereon in the specification. Support for new claim 19 may be found, for example, in Fig. 1B. No new matter has been added.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 11, 12 and 14.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

II. The Rejection Of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (USP No. 5,824,186). Applicants respectfully submit that Smith fails to anticipate claim 1 for at least the following reasons.

With regard to the present invention, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a semiconductor laser device comprising: a notch, through which a laser-emitting portion of an associated one of the

semiconductor laser chips is exposed, is formed at an edge portion of the substrate to face the laser-emitting portion.

In contrast to the present invention, the alleged notch 123 of Smith (see, Fig. 11), goes through substrate 125 from a bottom central portion of the recess to a lower portion of the substrate 125. Thus, Smith does not disclose, *inter alia*, a semiconductor laser device comprising: a notch, through which a laser-emitting portion of an associated one of the semiconductor laser chips is exposed, is formed at an edge portion of the substrate to face the laser-emitting portion.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the locations of active layers of the semiconductor laser chips and the distance between the light emitting points of the semiconductor laser chips can be self aligned by disposing the semiconductor laser chips in respective recessed portions formed in the substrate. Therefore, the laser-emitting directions of the respective semiconductor laser devices can be aligned. Smith, on the other hand, appears silent as to a self alignment, let alone suggest a configuration to make self-alignment possible.

As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each element of the claim in issue be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a single prior art reference, *Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp.*, 713 F.2d 760, 218 USPQ 781 (Fed. Cir. 1983), and at a minimum, Smith does not disclose a semiconductor laser device comprising: a notch, through which a laser-emitting portion of an associated one of the semiconductor laser chips is exposed, is formed at an edge portion of the substrate to face the laser-emitting portion, it is clear that Smith does not anticipate claim 1, or any dependent claims thereon of the present invention.

III. All Dependent Claims Are Allowable Because The Independent Claim From Which They Depend Is Allowable

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, as claim 1 is patentable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP


Michael E. Fogarty
Registration No. 36,139

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF/NDM:kap
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: June 29, 2006

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